

FROM

STATE SENATOR

SAM AANESTAD

4TH SENATE DISTRICT

Northern California



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California Dental Residency Program



Dental specific legislation from Senator Sam Aanestad (R-Grass Valley), recently signed into law, will help increase the number of dentists in California through the creation of a new residency program. SB 683 allows select dental students to receive a license to practice dentistry in California, following the successful participation in a clinically based post-doctoral program in general or specialty dentistry.

Current Law

There are currently three avenues that all applicants seeking a license to practice dentistry in California must take. The most common includes the completion of a clinical demonstration exam in an operative setting, and graduation from a dental education program approved by the national Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). **SB 683** will now create an “alternative path” to licensing for dentists.

New Options

Rather than the “one-shot” exam to test a student’s skills, the dental student will have the option to complete a CODA-accredited dental residency program of no less than one year in length and held in an accredited facility. Senator Aanestad says **SB 683** creates the same type of residency program that is currently available to all licensed physicians in California.

The Advantages

Furthermore, supporters of **SB 683** point out that a dental residency program also allows dental school graduates to further their skills, knowledge and ability in the practice of dentistry.

Residency Works

SB 683 is common-sense legislation that is supported by the dental industry. The legislation is modeled after a successful dental residency program that is already in place in the State of New York and will create more, and better qualified, dentists for California.

“This legislation creates a new type of dental residency program that is very similar to the residency programs that many physicians in California and throughout the nation successfully complete. As a licensed oral surgeon with decades of experience, I understand the importance of training and qualifications in the field of general dentistry or any other health-related occupation.”

Senator Sam Aanestad

